



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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16 DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN A TROY BASED DRUG CONSPIRACY

Albany, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, announced the unsealing of an indictment returned by a federal grand jury for the Northern District of New York in Albany, New York that charges 16 individuals with federal drug felonies arising out of a multi-agency investigation of large-scale cocaine-base (crack) and powder cocaine in and around Troy, New York.

The following fourteen defendants are charged in Count 1 of Indictment 12-CR-14 with the crime of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base from August 1, 2011 through January 18, 2012 and face a maximum penalty of up to life in prison:

<u>Name/Residence</u>	<u>Age</u>
Jerrell Wright Hawthorne, New Jersey	41
Darren Goss Troy, New York	47
Tyrun Covington Albany, New York	37
Calvin B. Zeigler Queens, New York	42
Corey McCrae Watervliet, New York	42
Shawn J. Everette Troy, New York	32

Cory R. Goss Troy, New York	28
Niesreen Mende Troy, New York	22
Nathaniel Anderson Troy, New York	34
Dequan Huggins Troy, New York	21
Natalia Lind Troy, New York	27
Lawrence Knight Cohoes, New York	45
William Kelly Queens, New York	39
Richard Marshall Spring Valley, New York	49

The following three defendants are charged in Count 2 of Indictment 12-CR-14 with conspiracy to distribute cocaine from August 1, 2011 through January 18, 2012 and face a maximum penalty of up to life in prison:

<u>Name/Residence</u>	<u>Age</u>
Jerrell Wright Hawthorne, New Jersey	41
Travis Schultz Troy, New York	31
Tiama Schultz Troy, New York	35

All of the above listed defendants, with the exception of Tyrun Covington and Corey McCrae, were arrested this morning and are scheduled for their initial appearance and arraignment today at 2:00 p.m. before United States Magistrate Judge Randolph F. Treece in Albany.

As a result of search warrant executions conducted early this morning by law enforcement agencies and previous seizures during the course of this investigation approximately 1 kilogram of cocaine and cocaine base (crack), 6 firearms, and more than \$100,000 in U.S. currency were seized from the defendants charged in these indictments.

These charges are the result of a joint investigation conducted by the New York State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and Queens Criminal Squad, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Capital District Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, the Troy Police Department, United States Marshal, Northern District of New York, Albany Office, the Watervliet Police Department, the Cohoes Police Department, the Queens County District Attorney's Office, the Rensselaer County District Attorney's Office, and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York.

Major Wayne Olson, Detail Commander of the New York State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team said, "This investigation was a great example of the importance of the community and law enforcement working together to fight the integration of drugs into the community. These arrests are a direct result of citizens providing information to the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team and the tremendous investigative work by our Federal, State and local law enforcement partners. Their efforts and the support of the U.S. Attorney's Office will ultimately work to significantly reduce the availability of illegal drugs in the community and the associated drug related violence."

DEA Acting Special Agent in Charge Wilbert L. Plummer stated, "This six month investigation brought together federal, state and local law enforcement in order to identify a crack cocaine and cocaine distribution organization operating in the Capital District. With a drug pipeline stemming from Hawthorn, New Jersey ending in the Albany region Jerrell Wright was

running a rampant drug distribution network that is now dismantled and 14 arrests have been made for those responsible for these illegal actions.”

Chief John Tedesco of the Troy Police Department stated, “The culmination of the law enforcement efforts seen here today will undoubtedly provide safer communities not only in the City of Troy, but throughout the Capital District. I am confident that those arrested today and facing prosecution by United States Attorney Richard Hartunian will no longer be free to ply their illicit trade. The Troy Police Department looks forward to continuing our law enforcement partnerships to enhance the quality life in our communities.”

Rensselaer County Sheriff Jack Mahar stated, “We are very pleased to have been involved in such a well organized and coordinated interagency effort. It is important to note everything went off as planned and without injury to any of the officers or suspects involved. I wish to congratulate everyone on a job well done.”

U.S. Attorney Hartunian and Rensselaer County District Attorney Richard McNally praised the outstanding cooperative efforts of the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies who participated in this investigation. U.S. Attorney Hartunian noted that his Office will continue to work closely with the federal, state, and local authorities to prosecute individuals and organizations that engage in narcotics trafficking, and other criminal activity throughout the Northern District of New York.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.